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Talking Points for the DCI  
(16 September 1983)

LEBANON: Situation Update

The Lebanese Army is reporting this morning that it has repulsed a major attack on its positions at Suq al Gharb by Palestinian forces belonging to the dissident PLO faction led by Abu Musa.

- The Army reportedly stifled repeated Druze/Palestinian offensives launched last night--the eve of the anniversary of the Sabra/Shatila massacres.

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The Army has launched a counteroffensive aimed at securing the Druze-held towns of Baysur and Aytat. The capture of these towns would consolidate Lebanese Army positions on the Alayh ridgeline and cut off Druze access to Shuwayfat, the Druze-held town south of the airport.

- The Army reportedly will not accept a cease-fire until these towns have been captured.

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Lebanese Army Hawker Hunter aircraft today bombed Druze and Palestinian artillery positions in the mountains in support of this offensive.

- State radio claims that the planes destroyed at least one artillery position.
- One Hawker Hunter was shot down, and at least one other aircraft was damaged.

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Druze leader Marwan Hammada, an adviser to Walid Junblatt, warned the US Embassy in Damascus that the Lebanese Air Force bombings will disrupt negotiations for a ceasefire.

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Both the US Embassy and Marine positions at the airport have come under fire this morning, but no casualties are reported.

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